Mr. Bernard Fensterwald
1707 H St., NW 10th floor
Washington, D.C. 20006

12/15/76

Dear Bud,

Odd coincidence that you should ask Jim to speak to me about Gonzalez the same day I thought of writing you about what I believed you should know.

As Jim has probably told you I believe Gonzalez as chairman would be a disaster.

You may have forgotten but we discussed this when you and Pattie were here about two months ago. My views now are even stronger, based on performance.

I'd have written you earlier only some tendon trouble with the right arm for several weeks was inhibiting.

When I met with Sprague and others on 10/20 once when Sprague was called to the phone I asked Rick for copies of what Downing presented to the Rules committee, including the Kohly stuff. Rick got real uptight. He has not done it. I need nothing like this if I want to clobber Downing, which I do not. I think Downing was had. I wanted to know more about it and of course I would like this for archival purposes. If I wanted to belabor Downing I need no more than one of the things I would have mentioned to you if you had phoned, his puff for the Warner reprint of Morrow's wretched fake. Warner is distributing that widely. A reporter sent me a poor copy. Morrow's broadcasts are more than enough if one wants to go after Downing. Obviously I have not.

This is a public record. There ought be no problem providing it. I can't afford to pay the Rules committee for it and ought not have to think of this with all the free time I've given Downing and Rick and the committee. I killed two days herealone with Rick and Tiny and went to Washington to see them at their request when I was hardly over the pneumonia and pleurisy, was not able to drive it myself.

Having it for other than historical purposes means nothing to me. Its denial does.

I'd also appreciate transcipts of the committee's public proceedings until the new session. These also are public records. In the 1930s it was my responsibility to make these available to writers and I know of no change in Congressional policy. In this case I think there is a better reason for this request being honored: I gave them 14 volumes of transcripts Ozer promptly represented to the committee came from the prosecutor. They were not to give anything from me to any other, particularly not to Lane. They agreed nothing would get out of their offices. I am sure Ken Brooten will tell you that these did. As of now I still do not have one of my originals. They replaced it with a xerox. For my purposes that is fine but for their keeping of their word?

If you care about keeping these people straight, about protecting against the inevitable attacks, please arrange this. It should be no problem for Downing and he should have someone on whom he can call when he may think he has been bullshitted, as he has been. Again it is obvious I have no interest in going public on this or I would. I have had disagreements. I have not gone public with them. Where you have not been responsiblem, as in these cases I am certain you were not, I believeit also serves your interest. I will read whatever I am sent as soon as I receive it, mark it up and be prepared to answer questions. You should be aware that I could have asked WTTG for time. I have not and do not intend to. I don't want to spend my time that way. On the other hand I did arrange for a National Public Radio response to Macmillan the day I saw the doctor about my arm. They have not yet aired it. From this what I do not intend should be clear enough. The only reason I can think of for some of these people not wanting me to have transcripts is their certainty of what is in them that should not be. That should interest Downing and you. From the news accounts I can give you enough specifics.

I will be glad to do as you ask. I asked Jim only that it not appear that I took the initiative. I should have asked that if this is wanted it be scheduled for as early in

the day as is convenient for O'Neill. I am not driving that distance. I'll have a ride that will get me in D.C. by or before 8:30. When I take the bus it has me at the station at 8:30. Almost always now I have the ride. If this is early I can be available to others who might want to talk to me or if there are none for other work. I do not go there very often any more. As of now I do not plan to go to my next hearing the afternoon of 1/3, the next time after Friday I have anything scheduled.

Some unsolicited budget advice if this interest you or Downing. Sprague told me he plans to use PSEs and ~~polygraphs~~ polygraphs not as prime evidence but to test honesty. Maybe with run-of-the mill crooks but not in this field. You know people who could defeat these devices regularly. If they have to compromise, whether or not Sprague likes it this is a prime sacrifice. He'll get clobbered on this if he uses those gadgets anyway, regardless of his prior experience. I can do it right now - and would I love to be really tempted! Include O'Toole, who has been conned on his own device. Reporters have sent me tapes of him in person certifying perjurers as honest people. On this subject.

Again I think it should be obvious that if I wanted to make stinks with this kind of stuff I'd have done it or in any event would not be telling you about it. If I will not run from any I would prefer to avoid all that can be avoided. To me Gonzalez and his gang cannot be avoided.

If what you have in mind does not work I can give you some other ideas. As I told you when you were here we are on the same beam on this.

If you want to talk to me about this and if it reaches you in time I will be in Washington on Friday with a flexible schedule after 11 a.m. I'm going in for the post-phlebitic regular checkup and to be measured for new venous supports. The second appointment is around the corner from you on 18th St. at 10:30. Maybe I'll just stop in on my way to Jim's, in case.

If you are busy or are not in I want to caution you again about how others can interpret some of what has happened and hold you responsible. Including flipped-out Jimmy and his new racist lawyer. Apparently he hates you whether or not he and you have ever met.

Sincerely,